Availability of gas for Gandhar Power Project

75. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the availability position of gas for Gujarat Government's Gandhar Power Project; and

(b) by when Government propose to take a final decision for providing gas linkage to Gandhar and Pipavav
Power projects?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) The availability position of gas for the Gujarat Government's Gandhar Power Project is under review.

Conversion of Nadiad_Modasa-Kapadvanj Line

76. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the work of conversion of Nadiad-Modasa-Kapadvanj railway line into Broad Gauge line is likely to be completed;

(b) what are the reasons for non-completion of this propect within the estimated period; and

(c) what is the lastest position of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) The work of Nadiad.Kapadvanj Gauge Conversion is expected to be completed by 1992-93. The construction of new line from Kapadvanj to Modasa will be progressed thereafter as the new line can be put to use only after Gauge Conversion is commissioned. Completion will depend on availability of resources in the •coming years?

Participation of private sector in Oil exploration

77. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked out any clear cut plan for leasing out areas for exploration in the country to private sector if so, the names of such parties to whom Government have approved so far indicating the terms and conditions of contract and period; if any; decided for exploration and refining;

(b) whether any tender has so far been invited from Indian or foreign entrepreneures; if so, the time likely to be taken by Government for scrutinising the same and final allocation thereof and if not, the reasons for delay in this regard; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the ONGC Engineers with requisite experience have shown great resentment on assigning of jobs to private foreign companies; if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Government of India have invited international and Indian oil companies to bid for 72 blocks—39 offshore and 33 onshore—for exploration of oil and gas under the Fourth Round of bidding. The contract to be signed with these companies would be production sharing contracts for 25 years for crude oil and associated gas, extendable by 5 years and a maximum period of 35 years for non-associated gas. The last date for receipt off the bids is 29th February 1992. The time required for finalisation of contracts would depend on the number of offers received.

(c) No, Sir.